

Cressbrook Farm (Federal Barn)

Chester County

Zone 18

A	E461600	N4434340
B	E461680	N4434230
C	E461140	N4434540
D	E461500	N4434200
E	E461520	N4434280

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL MONUMENT SERVICE

FOUNDED USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

54

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Federal Barn

AND/OR COMMON

Cressbrook Farm**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

East of Wilson Road, Chesterbrook

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tredyffrin Township

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

COUNTY

Chester

CODE

029**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Fox Companies (Chesterbrook Homeowner's Association)

STREET & NUMBER

1 Adams Drive, Chesterbrook

CITY, TOWN

Wayne

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Chester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

West Chester

STATE

Pennsylvania**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Site Plan

DATE

April 20, 1973 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSYerkes Associates, Inc. 101 Charles Drive

CITY, TOWN

Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The barn is a detached two story stone and wood "Pennsylvania bank barn" situated on a hillside northeast of and overlooking the Duportail Farmhouse. Typical of the Pennsylvania bank farm form, the upper floor is the threshing and mow floor with wagon door entrances on grade and the ground level, lower floor houses the stables. The barn was sited to utilize the natural slope of the hillside by setting the rectangular shape barn into the east-west aligned hill with its long axis parallel to the hilltop so that upper and lower floor levels have on-grade entrances. The access road to the barn wagon entrances parallels the north side of the barn and provides a level access ramp to the original Federal barn west entrance and a sloping large timber bridge ramp to the east barn entrance. The stable (lower) level is surrounded by a large fenced and stone wall enclosed barnyard, thus developing a yard area sheltered from the winter weather by the barn.

The barn is six bays long on its east-west major axis plus attached shed on the west gable end. Built in different sections it is comprised of two 3 bay barns; the original barn built in 1792, bears the date stone and inscribed signatures of the builders and tenants. A larger three bay barn addition attached to the east gable end was built later in the early to mid 19th century. Another addition, a low two story stone and wood sloping roof storage shed was a later addition to the west gable end of the original barn.

The aligned north facade of both barn sections (upper level) are constructed of native random stone forming large bearing walls flanking large full height bay sized wagon doors centrally located in middle bay of each three bay barn. The later (east) barn had a projecting protective peaked hood over this entrance. The east and west gable ends are of random stone extending to the outer edge of the southern facade forebay. Embrasures in the gable ends of the Federal barn provided ventilation for the mow area, while a framed peak located unglazed window is the only opening in the east gable.

The south facade upper level is constructed of unfinished vertical boards on wood framing which forms a projecting forebay over the random stone ground floor bearing walls. This forebay provides a protective aisle for the major length of the stable wall shielding wood frame ventilation window and entrance doors all opening on-grade to the barnyard. In the area of the eastern end bay of the barn this forebay advances to a full bay depth supported by tapered rubble stone piers plaster coated to protect them from weather erosion.

The roof is sloped with a center located ridge parallel to the east-west axis uninterrupted in each three bay barn section. The Federal barn ridge is lower than the later east barn. The present roof covering is asphalt shingles overlaying the original wood shingles fastened to open wood stripping.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The framing of the mow and threshing floor level of both barn sections is constructed of massive hand hewn mortised and tenoned wood timbers joined and pegged posts beams and sloping braced purlins supporting rafters spanning from exterior walls and peg joined at the ridge.

Massive and close spaced timbers projecting to the end of the forebay and overlaid with boards forms the floor of the threshing and mow bays. A feature of the later 19th century barn is the raised outer bay drive-on threshing floor to form pitch-down flanking mows and intended forebay gallery facilitating the unloading of hay wagons. This feature appears to have directed the design of the entire barn section with its bridged access ramp higher mounted entrance doors and related increase in roof elevation.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
 1400-1499
 1500-1599
 1600-1699
 1700-1799
 1800-1899
 1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
 AGRICULTURE
 ARCHITECTURE
 ART
 COMMERCE
 COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING
 CONSERVATION
 ECONOMICS
 EDUCATION
 ENGINEERING
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
 INDUSTRY
 INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 LAW
 LITERATURE
 MILITARY
 MUSIC
 PHILOSOPHY
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION
 SCIENCE
 SCULPTURE
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 THEATER
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

1792 and circa 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Jonathan Moor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1972, the Cressbrook Farm was placed on the National Register of Historic Places to include only the main house which was the former quarters of Brigadier General Louis Labeque Duportail during the historic Valley Forge encampment (1777-78). It is the purpose of this nomination to include the Cressbrook Farm barn on the National Register to protect not only a significant historic structure but to also further protect the integrity of the house and historic scene. The barn is located within 150' of the house.

The barn, as it now stands, was built during two periods. The original portion in 1792 and a second section, doubling the size of the barn, in the period of 1830 - 1850. The original portion is thought to be the only signed bank barn in Pennsylvania. Inscribed in the interior plaster of the west gable and in large script is "The Federal Barn 1792" and nearby are the longhand inscriptions "Jonathan Moor his work", "John H. Moor 1792", and "JH". On the east gable end are "John Hamer 1792" and "J.H.". In addition to these, there is a date stone in the western gable, "WMD 1792". The signatures are those of the builders and the initials stand for William and Mary Davis, occupants of the farm in 1792, and John Harvard, owner of the farm and Mary Davis' father.

Both barns exhibit fine stone and wood work details and were used in their main sections for bulk storage of hay. The later barn section was entered over a wood bridge protected by a covered roof providing additional storage and entry space under the bridge as well as an unusual architectural feature.

The barn lot with its stone fence is still intact on two sides although one of the three sides is now missing.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barns of Chester County by Bernice Ball

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.743

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4,6,16,0,0	4,4,3,6,3,40	B	1,8	4,6,16,8,0	4,4,3,4,23,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	4,6,15,4,0	4,4,3,4,14,0	D	1,8	4,6,1,52,0	4,4,3,4,28,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Description of boundary as shown on drawing 18-DH-1, dated March 21, 1977
Titled: Plan of Duportail Residence

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Fox, President

7/18/79

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Fox Companies

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1 Adams Drive, Chesterbrook

(215) 644-1163

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Wayne

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barns of Chester County by Bernice Ball

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.743

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4,6,16,0,0	4,4,3,6,3,4,0	B	1,8	4,6,16,8,0	4,4,3,4,23,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	4,6,15,4,0	4,4,3,4,14,0	D	1,8	4,6,1,52,0	4,4,3,4,28,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Description of boundary as shown on drawing 18-DH-1, dated March 21, 1977
Titled: Plan of Duportail Residence

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Fox, President

7/18/79

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Fox Companies

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1 Adams Drive, Chesterbrook

(215) 644-1163

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Wayne

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

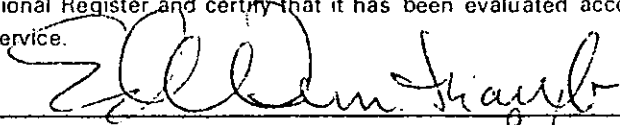
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Ed Weintraub, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE 9/25/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER